

BILL # HB 2203

TITLE: schools; reading deficiencies; summer school

SPONSOR: Anderson

STATUS: As Introduced

PREPARED BY: Steve Schimpp

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

The bill allows the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to use monies in the Failing Schools Tutoring Fund to provide summer school programs for any pupil who, at the end of Grade 3, is not reading at or above the 3rd Grade level.

Estimated Impact

The bill would not have a General Fund cost. It potentially would reduce the amount of funding available for currently-specified functions of the Failing Schools Tutoring Fund. This seems unlikely to occur, at least in the short term, however, as in recent years the fund has experienced a substantial and growing ending balance.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) does not have a cost estimate for this proposal.

Analysis

The Failing Schools Tutoring Fund was established through voter approval of Proposition 301 from the November 2000 General Election and receives \$1.5 million in Proposition 301 revenues annually pursuant to A.R.S. § 42-5029(E8). Originally fund revenues could only be used to provide tutoring for pupils in “failing schools” pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-241 (as established by the Proposition 301 “companion bill”). In recent years, however, that law has been amended to allow fund monies to also be used to fund tutoring for students in “non-failing” schools who have failed to pass AIMS tests and to purchase materials designed to help students in general meet Arizona academic standards and pass AIMS.

Despite the fund’s expanded purpose in recent years, it has accumulated growing ending balances (\$5.6 million for FY 2005 and \$6.2 million for FY 2006 according to ADE records). The fund had reported expenditures of \$382,500 in FY 2005 and \$882,500 for FY 2006. The bill would be expected to increase fund expenditures. The amount of increase would depend on amount of 3rd Grade tutoring that public schools would begin to implement under the bill, which cannot be predicted with certainty. Regardless, the bill would not have a General Fund impact, as the Failing Schools Tutoring Fund is funded with Proposition 301 monies only.

Local Government Impact

The bill would increase fund outlays to school districts and charter schools to the extent that their 3rd Grade pupils took advantage of tutoring services that would become available under the bill.

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